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complete revolution by more than  $25^\circ$ . At present an arc exceeding one revolution by  $14^\circ$  is available, and the companion has nearly reached its maximum elongation. These conditions favor a more accurate determination of the orbit elements and especially of the period, and a new discussion has therefore been undertaken.

The present note relates to the period of revolution which is indicated by the preliminary comparison of the mean position angles observed in the years 1862 to 1868 with those observed in the years 1912 to 1918. These annual means were formed after the measures of the individual observers had been freed, as far as possible, from systematic errors of measure. The dates in the first column and the position angles in the following table are the direct results of observation; the dates in the third column have been obtained by reducing the observed dates to make the observed angles equal to those for the corresponding early dates. For example, the observations give 1912.05,  $84^\circ.8$ . To reduce the angle to  $84^\circ.7$ , a correction, computed from Lohse's elements, is applied to the date, making it 1912.09.

DATE	ANGLE	DATE	PERIOD	WEIGHT
1862.22	$84^\circ.7$	1912.09	49.87y.	6
1863.21	$82^\circ.1$	1913.07	49.86	5
1864.20	$78^\circ.5$	1914.50	50.30	5
1865.21	$77^\circ.2$	1915.23	50.02	6
1866.22	$75^\circ.3$	1915.93	49.71	8
1867.19	$73^\circ.4$	1917.19	50.00	8
1868.20	$70^\circ.3$	1918.34	50.14	9

Weighted mean period.....49.98 years

Neglecting weights, the simple mean is 49.99 years, and the individual comparisons are accordant in indicating an increase to the periods adopted by Auwers, and, later, by Lohse. A least squares solution for the definitive correction to the period and other orbit elements is now in progress.

May, 1918.

ROBERT G. AITKEN.

#### THE CROCKER ECLIPSE EXPEDITION, 1918

Director Campbell recently spent a day at Goldendale, Washington, selecting the observing station for the total solar eclipse on June 8th, just outside the western edge of the town, and making preliminary arrangements.

The personnel of the expedition consists of Director and Mrs. W. W. Campbell, Astronomer H. D. Curtis, Associate Astronomer

and Mrs. Joseph H. Moore, and Mr. J. E. Hoover, Foreman of the observatory workmen, of Mount Hamilton, and Dr. E. P. Lewis, Berkeley, Professor of Physics of the University of California. Miss Leah B. Allen, of the Department of Astronomy in Wellesley College, Miss Estelle Glancy, Assistant in the Argentine National Observatory, Cordova, and Professor S. L. Boothroyd, of the University of Washington, Seattle, will be volunteer assistants.

It is hoped and expected that Regent William H. Crocker, of San Francisco, patron of this expedition and many of its predecessors, and likewise Dr. Ambrose Swasey, of the firm of Warner & Swasey, Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. John A. Brashear, of the Brashear Company, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and Mr. C. F. Brush, of Cleveland, Ohio, will be the guests of the expedition from June 7th to 9th.

The extensive and special eclipse equipment of the Lick Observatory, left in Russia following the eclipse of August 21, 1914, on account of war conditions, started on its long journey home from the National Observatory at Poulkova, twelve miles south of Petrograd, on August 15, 1917. It reached Vladivostok about December 15, where the business boycott held it until late in April. At some subsequent date it reached Kobe, Japan. It was still at Kobe on the 15th of May, but with prospects of shipment within a few days. There is little chance that it will reach some Pacific port of the United States, port at present unknown, before June 4th, and that would be too late to get the shipment to Goldendale, unpack it and adapt, mount, adjust and test the apparatus for the eclipse on June 8th.

The constant expectation, since August, 1917, that the special eclipse equipment would be received in time for the coming event, prevented me from purchasing or borrowing equipment commensurate with the coming opportunity. This expectation seemed justified up to about the first of April. At that time the outcome seemed doubtful and we proceeded to prepare such portable apparatus as the Lick Observatory possessed and such apparatus as Director Leuschner, of the Students' Observatory, and Professor Lewis, of the Department of Physics, generously offered to lend. Necessarily the expedition is on a modest scale.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

PERSONAL NOTES

Dr. Robert Grant Aitken, Astronomer in the Lick Observatory, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in April at the annual meeting in Washington. Dr. Henry Norris Russell, Director of the Observatory and Astronomer in Princeton University, was elected to membership in the Academy at the same time; and the Draper Medal was awarded to Dr. Walter Sydney Adams, Astronomer in the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory.

Director William Wallace Campbell, of the Lick Observatory, was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in February.

The University of California, in the third week of March, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, in part by a five-day program of addresses and conferences on the general subject of internationalism. Director Campbell delivered an address on "The International Relations of Science," with special reference to the Pacific Coast region.

By request Director Campbell repeated the same address at the Commencement Exercises of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, on May 2nd.

Dr. François Henroteau, Martin Kellogg Fellow in the Lick Observatory during the current academic year, has been appointed an assistant in the Allegheny Observatory, dating from July 1, 1918.

Mr. William H. Wright, Astronomer in the Lick Observatory, serving in the Berkeley Astronomical Department during the present semester to release two members of the Berkeley Department for war service, will reside in Berkeley during the whole of the coming academic year for the same purpose.

Dr. Heber D. Curtis, Astronomer in the Lick Observatory, served in the Berkeley Astronomical Department during the second half of the present semester, in succession to Professor Russell Tracy Crawford, who, as a major in the United States Army, is in charge of the Balloon Training School at Omaha. Dr. Curtis will reside in Berkeley during the summer session of the University to make useful his experience and skill in the training of a large class of candidates for the position of navigator in the United States Navy.

Mr. H. Thiele, Fellow in the Lick Observatory during the past year, has been appointed assistant for the coming year.

Miss Priscilla Fairfield, of Needham, Mass., graduate of Boston University, has been appointed to a University Fellowship in the Lick Observatory for the year 1918-19.

Miss Edith B. Cummings, a graduate of the University of Missouri, at present an assistant in the Allegheny Observatory, has been appointed to a University Fellowship in the Lick Observatory for the year 1918-19.

Dr. Ralph E. Wilson, Acting Astronomer in charge of the D. O. Mills Observatory at Santiago, Chile, has resigned, to take effect on June 30th. He is returning to the United States in the hope that he may find opportunity to serve his country in the present international crisis.

Dr. George F. Paddock, Assistant in the Lick Observatory, has been appointed Acting Astronomer in charge of the D. O. Mills Observatory at Santiago, Chile. Dr. Paddock will start south in the middle or late summer.

Mr. C. M. Huffer, Assistant at Santiago, Chile, will be in charge of the D. O. Mills Observatory ad interim.